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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully present Claims 1-27 for examination in the RCE filed herewith. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended herein to more clearly define the scope of the presently claimed invention. No new claims have been submitted. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims and remarks presented herein overcome the Examiner's rejections in the Final Office Action dated April 21, 2005 in the parent and are now in condition for appeal or allowance.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to various informalities in the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that some of these informalities were already addressed in the previously submitted amendment and that others have been addressed in the amended claims presented herein. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection to the claims.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because the Examiner submits that the limitation "the plurality of agents" in line 8 of the claim lacks antecedent basis. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 4 has been amended and the rejection is now moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection to Claim 4.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Wolton et al., U.S. Publication No. 2004/0030741 ("Wolton"). The Examiner submits that Wolton discloses all the elements in these claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

Applicants respectfully highlight a key element of the claimed invention, namely the fact that the agents that are capable of communicating with devices running on

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different platforms and using different protocols. More specifically, as described in

paragraph 19 of the specification:

> "In configuration 100, an agent is capable of communicating with the devices in its device group that are running on different platforms and using different protocols. An agent serves as an interface between the devices in its device group and the priority rule-based coalescing mechanism 110. While interacting with the priority rule-based coalescing mechanism 110, a uniform schema or convention may be adopted. For example, a schema defined using the eXtensible Markup Language (XML) may be pre-specified to deliver the information from agents to the priority rule-based coalescing mechanism 110."

Specification, Page 5-6, paragraph 19

This feature is not disclosed in Wolton. The crux of the Examiner's argument is

that paragraph 790 of Wolton discloses agents that receive and send formatted

information via a network where the information is formatted according to a pre-defined

syntax, as claimed. The Examiner summarily dismisses Applicants' previously submitted

argument that paragraph 790 of Wolton specifically talks about "disparately formatted

and heterogenous information", implying that there is *no pre-defined format*. The

Examiner's stated reason for the rejection is that "the disparately formatted and

heterogenous information taught in paragraph 790 of Wolton point to a need to format the

data before the agent manipulates the gatered information, since there are many

differently formatted information types." The Examiner then highlights paragraphs 62-

67 of Wolton as showing "the agent *modifies* the collected information before sending"

(emphasis added). Applicants strongly disagree with the Examiner's conclusory

statement.

Applicants once again reiterate that nothing in Wolton discloses agents that

receive and send formatted information via a network where the information is formatted

according to a pre-defined syntax, as claimed. Specifically, the Examiner's leap from the

language in paragraph 790 to suggesting that "Wolton point[s] to a need format the data

before the agent manipulates the gathered information" is without basis. Without

conceding the Wolton "points to" such a need, in order for Wolton to be a proper

reference under 35 U.S. C. 102, it has to disclose this element, not merely "point to a

need". Additionally, paragraphs 62-67 of Wolton highlighted by the Examiner make no

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reference to "the agent modifies the collected information before sending", as the Examiner suggests. Instead, paragraphs 62-67 read as follows:

"[0062] In the results formatting aspect of the invention, the agent ranks collected information, documents, images, files, and other results according to the:
[0063] (1) natural order in which the search discovery occurred, or alternatively results can be ranked according
[0064] (2) to search term matches of True, False, and Unknown, or
[0065] (3) according to discovered numbers of matches in the web pages based on word or
[0066] (4) numeric count metrics, or
[0067] (5) according to recency of changes detected in web pages previously visited, for example."

Wolton, paragraph 62-67.

There is nothing in this section that can be construed as formatting the information according to a predefined syntax, as claimed. This section merely describes how an agent in Wolton "ranks" the collected information. Applicants strongly disagree that the term "ranks" is interchangeable with "formatting" and submits that it is improper to do so.

Without conceding that Wolton describes any other elements of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully submit that Wolton cannot render the present claims unpatentable because it does not disclose at least one element of the independent claims, as described above. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Wolton does not anticipate Claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection to these claims.
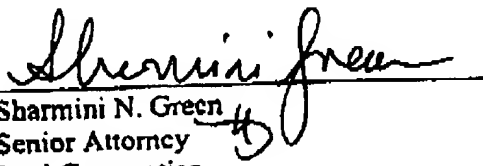
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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome and that pending Claims 1-27 are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance in this case. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (714) 669-1261.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 26, 2005

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